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as practical demonstrations of the numerous questions which daily confront the worker in her own field of labor. It is by just such means of coöperation that the many problems of our work will eventually be brought to some systematic state. The help of our friends so generously given in this broad way is thoroughly appreciated.

“ A. L. A.”

A DEMONSTRATION OF NURSING WORK

BY SARA ANICE BOWEN

Boston City Hospital

For the past three years the Boston City Hospital has given annually a practical demonstration of the work done by the nurses in the Training-School. The idea originated in the Illinois Training-School, Chicago, where a part of the nurses gave an exercise in practical work for the benefit of the rest of the members of the school. This idea was afterwards carried out upon a larger scale in the Presbyterian Hospital, New York. The elaboration of the plan in detail may be made to fit the capacity and equipment of any training-school.

The demonstration, which is given in the surgical amphitheatre, consists of four groups, which follow one another successively. The separate parts of each group are carried on simultaneously, which gives added interest to the programme and confidence to those who participate in it.

The following is the programme used at the Boston City Hospital this year:

GROUP I.

Cupping.
Hot pack.
Ice poultice to abdomen.
Bandage to leg.

GROUP II.

Bed-making, illustrated without and with the patient in bed.
Turning the mattress with the patient in bed and changing the bed-gown.
Plaster bandage.
Flaxseed poultice to throat.
Bathing and dressing an infant.

GROUP III.

Preparation of a patient for operation.
Aseptic dressing.
Foot-bath in bed.
Esophageal feeding.

GROUP IV.

The care of an emergency, which consists of bringing in a patient who is supposed to be in collapse and administering the treatment: elevating the foot of the bed, applying heaters, preparing and giving a hypodermic injection, giving oxygen, etc.

In carrying out this programme it is necessary to have several patients to act as subjects. These are usually easily obtained from among the convalescents. Invitations are sent out to the friends of the institution and to any who may be interested in hospital and nursing work.

The benefit of such an exercise as this is perhaps, first of all, to the nurses who participate in it. The discipline of doing a particular thing under the critical observation of a number of spectators brings out one's best effort, and the practice necessary to the perfect performance of her part is of obvious help to the nurse.

Much interest has been manifested by the public at large in these demonstrations. Graduate nurses who have been some time away from the hospital, and who are anxious to improve every opportunity to keep in touch with the advancement of nursing work, can see in these demonstrations the practical working of methods of which otherwise they have only a vague, theoretical knowledge. To those who know nothing of the care of the sick this demonstration gives an entirely new idea of the practical way to make sick people comfortable. The skill and dexterity necessary to the successful administration of treatment for the relief and comfort of patients comes as a revelation to those who have never witnessed it.

In these days the value and usefulness of the work of trained nurses need not to be demonstrated, but if by such an exercise as that described above we can in any way help to show the public that the training-schools in connection with our hospitals are seeking to teach their nurses earnestness and faithfulness in the details of their work, an added usefulness will be given to the occasion.

